

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/708,805
Docket No.: 12264-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of Application

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 4-5, 12-17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Greeff et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0083255). The Office Action further rejected claims 2-3 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greeff et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0083255). Furthermore, the Office Action rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greeff et al. as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Chao (US Patent No. 7,099,972).

Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 3, 12 and 16. Support for the changes can be found throughout the specification and the drawings. For example, the title of the current Application is "SYSTEM FOR ACCESSING A PLURALITY OF DEVICES BY USING A SINGLE BUS AND CONTROL APPARATUS THEREIN".

Discussion of "Response to Arguments"

In discussing Applicants' remark that "the fact an I/O controller having some specified functionality of a bus arbitrator does not require the I/O controller really contain a bus arbitrator", the Examiner contended that the Applicants' example (page 11 of the remarks filed November 24, 2006) of "a cellular phone having a functionality of Television, e.g., displaying video program, would not be interpreted as containing a television therein" as incorrect, and further alleged that "a claim to a cellular phone having a television would [be] interpreted as a cellular phone having

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the capability of displaying video programs so long as the originally filed specification/claims define television as a device of displaying video programs".

Applicants agree with the Examiner's latter comment. However, such a comment is irrelevant hereby. The point is not like to discuss about whether "a claim to a cellular phone having a television" could be interpreted as a cellular phone having the capability of displaying video programs. The point is more likely to discuss whether a cellular phone having the capability of displaying video programs could be interpreted as containing a television therein. We may even ask for more, e.g., a notebook computer, a projector, a digital camera, a camcorder, a CRT, or an LCD display also have the capability of displaying a video program, and should all of them be interpreted as contained in the cellular phone?

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 4-5, 12-17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Greeff et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0083255).

In response to the rejection thereto, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 16 and hereby otherwise traverses this rejection. As such, Applicants submit that the present invention as set forth in claims 1, 4-5, 12-17 and 19 is novel and unobvious over Greeff, or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed.

With respect to claim 1, as currently amended, recites:

A system for accessing at least a first device and a second device, the system comprising:

a single shared bus, coupled to the first device;

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a bus isolator, coupled to the shared bus and the second device for isolating the second device from the shared bus or connecting the second device to the shared bus; and
a control apparatus coupled to the shared bus so that the bus isolator isolates the second device from the shared bus when the control apparatus needs to access the first device and the bus isolator connects the second device with the shared bus when the control apparatus needs to access the second device.

(Emphasis added)

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner interpreted item 28a as a shared bus. However, Greeff teaches: "[T]he processor system 20 ... connected to a memory controller 31 with "a segmented data bus 28" (including bus segments 28a, 28b, and 28c) (Paragraph [0031] and Fig. 1). Applicants believe that if item 28a is interpreted as a shared bus, then the others, i.e., 28b, 28c, which are identical to item 28a, should also be interpreted in such a manner as shared buses, and therefore Greeff teaches more than one shared bus which is critical for his processor system 20, rather than a single shared bus (Emphasis added). Therefore, Greeff fails to teach each and every limitation of the claimed invention, as set forth in claim 1, and its dependent claims 4-5 are novel and unobvious over Greeff, or any of the other cited references, and thus should be allowed.

Similarly, with respect to claim 12, recites the limitation: "A system using a single bus for accessing a plurality of devices", and claim 16 recites: "A system using a single bus for accessing

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a plurality of devices". For the similar reason as discussed above, Applicants submit that claims 12, 16 and their dependent claims 13-15, 17, and 19 are also allowable.

Furthermore, with respect to claim 12, recites the limitation of **"control apparatus controls the shared bus to connect with a circuit internally linked to the first device when the control apparatus needs to access the first device and the control apparatus controls the shared bus to connect with a circuit internally linked to the second device when the control apparatus needs to access the second device"**, and likewise, claim 16 recites the limitation of **"the bus isolator is controlled by the control apparatus to isolate the first device and the second device from the shared bus in consideration of signaling demand for data transmission to prevent any data error resulting from a mutual interference of the signal transmission between the first device and the second device"** (Emphasis added).

Applicants submit that Greeff fail to teach, disclose or suggest that the bus isolator is controlled by the control apparatus to operate. The Examiner interpreted the switch 39 as reading on the bus isolator. However, throughout the specification, Greeff teaches only "during typical operations, the FET switch 39 is configured to disconnect the first bus segment 28a from the second bus segment 28b while the interface circuit 30 is receiving transmitted data through circuit 45 between bus segment 28a and the second bus 32" and "the FET switch 39 is typically configured to connect the first and second bus segments 28a, 28b, and pass data through while the interface circuit 30 is not selected for operations" (paragraph [0042]). Therefore, Greeff fails to teach a bus isolator controlled by a control apparatus as required by the claimed invention.

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For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1, 4-5, 12-17 and 19 are novel and unobvious over Greeff, or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, and thus should be allowed.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action further rejected claims 2-3 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greeff et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0083255).

In response to the rejection thereto, Applicants submit that claims 2-3, and 7-11 respectively depend on allowable independent claims 1, 12, and 16, and thus should also be allowable.

Further, regarding claim 2, Applicants submit that the rejection thereto was not properly made.

It has been held in "MPEP §706.02(j)" that "35U.S.C. 103 authorizes a rejection where, to meet the claim, it is necessary to modify a single reference or to combine it with one or more other references. After indicating that the rejection is under 35 U.S.C. 103, the examiner should set forth in the Office action:

- (A). the relevant teachings of the prior art relied upon, preferably with reference to the relevant column or page number(s) and line numbers(s) where appropriate,
- (B). the difference or differences in the claim over the applied references(s),

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(C). the proposed modification of the applied reference(s) necessary to arrive at the claimed subject matter, and

(D). an explanation why one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to make the proposed modification.

In rejecting claim 2, the Examiner has apparently neglected above required procedures (B), (C), and (D). There is no modification or combination proposed at all, and there is certainly no explanation why one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to make the inexistent proposed modification.

The Examiner is more likely using his own knowledge or common knowledge to crossover the gap between the claimed invention and Greeff. However, in such a circumstance, an affidavit or an official notice made by the Examiner should be filed in supporting the 103 rejection. Applicants hereby respectfully challenge the factual assertion as not properly officially noticed or not properly base upon common knowledge. Adequate evidence in supporting the 103 rejections is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greeff et al. as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Chao (US Patent No. 7,099,972).

Applicants submit that claim 18 depend on allowable claim 16, and thus should also be allowable.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1-19 are in proper condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date :

March 21, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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